



## Lent Mid-Week Five

March 13, 2024

St. John Passion: Wisdom Has a Friend on the Cross

### As We Gather

From earliest days the Christian Church employed the weeks before Easter—what came to be called the season of Lent—as the time of the year to prepare candidates for the Sacrament of Holy Baptism, the catechumenate. Paul wrote, “We were buried therefore with Him by baptism into death, in order that, just as Christ was raised from the dead by the glory of the Father, we too might walk in newness of life” (Romans 6:4). Our midweek Lenten services prepare us to consider our identity and connection with the Passion of Christ as the baptized children of God. Today, we focus on three scenes of the cross that strengthen our faith in Christ’s kindness for us. The cross is our King’s throne where His love takes away our sin and makes us the family of God.

### Opening Sentences

*Psalm 118:24; 113:3; Joel 2:13; Matthew 16:24; Isaiah 53:5*

**P** This is the day which the Lord has made;

**C** **let us rejoice and be glad in it.**

**P** From the rising of the sun to its setting,

**C** **the name of the Lord is to be praised.**

**P** Return to the Lord, your God, for He is gracious and merciful,

**C** **slow to anger, and abounding in steadfast love, and repents of evil.**

**P** Jesus said: If any man would come after Me,

**C** **let him deny himself and take up his cross and follow Me.**

**P** Christ was wounded for our transgressions.

**C** **He was bruised for our iniquities.**

**P** From the rising of the sun to its setting,

**C** **the name of the Lord is to be praised.**

**Glory be to the Father and to the Son and to the Holy Spirit; as it was in the beginning, is now, and will be forever. Amen.**

### Second Reading

*John 19:16b–27*

So they took Jesus, and he went out, bearing his own cross, to the place called the place of a skull, which in Aramaic is called Golgotha. There they crucified him, and with him two others, one on either side, and Jesus between them. Pilate also wrote an inscription and put it on the cross. It read, “Jesus of Nazareth, the King of the Jews.” Many of the Jews read this inscription, for the place where Jesus was crucified was near the city, and it was written in Aramaic, in Latin, and in Greek. So the chief priests of the Jews said to Pilate, “Do not write, ‘The King of the Jews,’ but rather, ‘This man said, I am King of the Jews.’” Pilate answered, “What I have written I have written.”

When the soldiers had crucified Jesus, they took his garments and divided them into four parts, one part for each soldier; also his tunic. But the tunic was seamless, woven in one piece from top to bottom, so they said to one another, “Let us not tear it, but cast lots for it to see whose it shall be.” This was to fulfill the Scripture which says,

“They divided my garments among them,  
and for my clothing they cast lots.”

So the soldiers did these things, but standing by the cross of Jesus were his mother and his mother’s sister, Mary the wife of Clopas, and Mary Magdalene. When Jesus saw his mother and the disciple whom he loved standing nearby, he said to his mother, “Woman, behold, your son!” Then he said to the disciple, “Behold, your mother!” And from that hour the disciple took her to his own home.

**P** This is the Word of the Lord.

**C** Thanks be to God.

## Responsory

1 John 2:1; Psalm 32:1

**P** We have an advocate with the Father: Jesus Christ, the Righteous One.

**C** He was delivered up to death; He was delivered for the sins of the people.

**P** Blessed is the one whose transgression is forgiven, whose sin is covered.

**C** He was delivered up to death; He was delivered for the sins of the people.

**P** We have an advocate with the Father; Jesus Christ, the Righteous One.

**C** He was delivered up to death; He was delivered for the sins of the people.

## Catechism

Ten Commandments

**C** You shall have no other gods.

You shall not misuse the name of the Lord your God.

Remember the Sabbath day by keeping it holy.

Honor your father and your mother.

You shall not murder.

You shall not commit adultery.

You shall not steal.

You shall not give false testimony against your neighbor.

You shall not covet your neighbor's house.

You shall not covet your neighbor's wife, or his manservant or maidservant, his ox or donkey, or anything that belongs to your neighbor.

## Sermon

## Offering

## Prayer

**L** In peace let us pray to the Lord:

**C** Lord, have mercy.

**L** For the gift of divine peace and of pardon, with all our heart and with all our mind, let us pray to the Lord:

**C** Lord, have mercy.

**L** For the holy Christian Church, here and scattered throughout the world, and for the proclamation of the Gospel and the calling of all to faith, let us pray to the Lord:

**C** Lord, have mercy.

**L** For this nation, for our cities and communities, and for the common welfare of us all, let us pray to the Lord:

**C** Lord, have mercy.

**L** For seasonable weather and for the fruitfulness of the earth, let us pray to the Lord:

**C** Lord, have mercy.

**L** For those who labor, for those whose work is difficult or dangerous, and for all who travel, let us pray to the Lord:

**C** Lord, have mercy.

**L** For all those in need, for the hungry and homeless, for the widowed and orphaned, and for all those in prison, let us pray to the Lord:

**C** Lord, have mercy.

**L** For the sick and dying and for all those who care for them, let us pray to the Lord:

**C** Lord, have mercy.

**L** For . . . *[additional bids for prayer may be inserted here]* . . . let us pray to the Lord:

**C** Lord, have mercy.

**L** Finally, for these and for all our needs of body and soul, let us pray to the Lord:

**C** Lord, have mercy. Christ, have mercy. Lord, have mercy.

## Prayer of the Day

- P** O Jesus, our King, by Holy Baptism into Your death we have been adopted as sons and daughters of God by grace. In Your kingly love You faithfully kept the ancient promise of the salvation of the whole world once again setting even the solitary in families. Fill us with wisdom and patience that we may live together in faith and love; for You live and reign with the Father and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.
- C** Amen.

## Collect for the Word

- P** Blessed Lord, You have caused all Holy Scriptures to be written for our learning. Grant that we may so hear them, read, mark, learn, and take them to heart that, by the patience and comfort of Your holy Word, we may embrace and ever hold fast the blessed hope of everlasting life; through Jesus Christ, Your Son, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.
- C** Amen.

## Luther's Evening Prayer

- C** I thank You, my heavenly Father, through Jesus Christ, Your dear Son, that You have graciously kept me this day; and I pray that You would forgive me all my sins where I have done wrong, and graciously keep me this night. For into Your hands I commend myself, my body and soul, and all things. Let Your holy angel be with me, that the evil foe may have no power over me. Amen.

## Blessing

- P** Let us bless the Lord.
- C** Thanks be to God.
- P** The almighty and merciful Lord, the Father, the ✠ Son, and the Holy Spirit, bless and preserve you.
- C** Amen.

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